

Flat tire is blamed for crash into river

Agencies say neither driver nor trucking firm was negligent in mishap.

By Dennis Romboy 7-1-92
Deseret News staff writer

PROVO — Utah Highway Patrol troopers have determined that a flat tire helped send a semitrailer truck hauling chemicals into the Provo River earlier this month.

The right rear tire on the tanker hauling 46,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate was deflated, Lt. Brent Shelby said. Driver Tracy Stephens told troopers he felt the load shift as he rounded a sharp curve about five miles up the canyon. The tanker separated from the tractor and tumbled into the river. The tractor plunged in on its wheels just ahead of it.

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Speed was not a factor in the June 5 accident. "He was over the speed limit by 5 mph," Shelby said. The speed limit is 40 mph.

The U.S. Department of Transportation also concluded its investigation of the driver and the trucking company, Buckley Powder.

"We found some violations of some regulations, but none of them that would have contributed to the accident," said Bruce D. Holmes, transportation special agent. The violations, were primarily oversights in paperwork, he said.

For instance, the truck passed inspection June 4, but the inspection report wasn't filled out, Holmes said.

No fines were levied. "They were operating like they were supposed to be operating," he said.

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Water board urges state to regulate canyon traffic

7-16-92

By JOSEPHINE ZIMMERMAN
Herald Staff Writer

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The resolution emphasizes that Provo River is a source of culinary water for Utah and Salt Lake counties. It urges the state "to consider measures, regulations and permits to protect the water supply from spills and contamination that could occur from the transportation of hazardous and toxic substances and materials through Provo Canyon."

CUWCD officials said their concern grew out of a recent incident in which a tractor-trailer carrying ammonium nitrate,

an explosives material, overturned in the river.

The resolution also urges interested county and city leaders in the two counties, as well as all interested water offices, to be notified of the risks involved with the unregulated transport of hazardous and toxic substances through the canyon. Also, that they be encouraged to support measures to protect the water supply of the two counties, and the safety and health of their residents.

Copies of the resolution will be sent to Gov. Norman H. Bangerter, majority and minority leaders of the State House and Senate, and to the Utah Department of Transportation.

Letters were also directed to Utah County Sheriff David R. Bateman, Wasatch County Sheriff Ed Thacker, and to the Department of Public Safety,

(See WATER, Page A2)

WATER:

(Continued from Page A1)

Wasatch Communications Center, Draper, urging them to notify the district promptly any time a car or truck goes into Deer Creek Reservoir, Provo River, or one of the tributaries.

"After reviewing the accident on June 8 in retrospect, we believe the major assistance to our district would be prompt notification. This notification, if possible, should be at the same time the officer is dispatched to the accident. This procedure allows time for our operators to perform the necessary steps to protect the culinary water supply," wrote Don Christiansen, CUWCD manager.

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Bennett, emergency services director with the Utah County Sheriff's Office, expressing appreciation for the coordination with his staff during the spill.

"The spill in the Provo River ... raised the awareness of the susceptibility of public water supply to hazardous material spills in surface water sources," Christiansen wrote.

"Our desire is to participate in any further emergency planning in general or follow-up of this specific spill in order to improve the reliability of and our ability to prevent contamination of public water supply systems that we serve."

PROVCANYON

Water boards aim to prevent further spills

2 districts urge state to regulate and possibly ban hauling of contaminants.

By Dennis Romboy
Deseret News staff writer

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The Central Utah Water Conservancy District and Salt Lake County Water Conservancy District boards approved resolutions in July asking the state to consider measures, regulations and permits to protect Utah and Salt Lake counties' water supplies from contamination that could result from an accident in the canyon.

"No other stretch of highway in the state of Utah carries the potential for as much harm to the water supply of these large population areas," Dave Ovard, Salt Lake County Water Conservancy District general manager, wrote in an

River of concern

Water officials' concerns about trucking hazardous materials through Provo Canyon:

- The Salt Lake Valley will become increasingly dependent on the Provo River as water demands increase and as the Central Utah Project is completed.

- Large volumes of assorted substances transported through the canyon are hazardous to the drinking water supply.

- If a spill occurs during high-delivery rates, the substance could make its way to the Salt Lake Valley water treatment plants before water districts are notified.

- A high-volume spill could affect miles of aqueduct system that would require many days for flushing. Cleanup time could exceed the availability of raw water storage.

- The potential for accidents in the canyon is high.

Source: Salt Lake County Water Conservancy District

Aug. 4 letter to Gov. Norm Bangerter. State and local officials along the Wasatch Front will receive the same memo.

A tractor-tanker rig hauling ammonium nitrate crashed into the river in the early morning hours of

See CANYON on B2

CANYON

Continued from B1

June 8. About 528 gallons of the chemical, used as a blasting agent and as fertilizer, oozed into the water from a gash in the tanker. Water samples showed an elevated — but not unsafe — level of ammonium nitrate in the Jordan aqueduct.

"The incident in the Provo River vividly underscores the potential danger of contamination to a major source of water with a single incident," said Don A. Christiansen, Central Utah Water Conservancy District general manager. "We want to prevent a similar incident from ever taking place."

The Salt Lake County Water Conservancy District offered three suggestions to water down the danger:

- Ban hazardous material transportation through Provo Canyon.

- Substantially limit the types and volumes of chemicals transported through the canyon.

- Enhance notification procedures so that water districts are

altered sooner.

Receiving timely notice was part of the problem associated with the June spill, Ovard said. Crews closed down the Olmsted diversion on the river about 90 minutes after the 2:30 a.m. accident. Crews on the scene had trouble notifying all the agencies with interest in the river.

The system carries water through the Jordan aqueduct to as many as 750,000 people in Utah and Salt Lake counties for culinary use. The closure nearly caused two water treatment plants to run dry.

"The Jordan Valley Treatment Plant came within several hours of being shut down for lack of water, and the Utah Valley Treatment Plant had to switch to an alternate source of water as a result of the truck accident," Christiansen said.

In addition to the resolution, Christiansen sent letters to the Utah Department of Public Safety, Utah County Sheriff Dave Bate- man and Wasatch County Sheriff Ed Thacker requesting immediate notification should a vehicle plunge into Deer Creek Reservoir, the river or one of its tributaries.

FATALS

3 killed, 4 hurt in separate crashes on canyon highways

*Head-on collisions claim
Y. zoology professor, Price
teen and N.M. woman.*

By Brooke Adams
Deseret News staff writer

10/15/92

Separate accidents Wednesday night and Thursday morning claimed the lives of three people and injured four others.

• Marek J. Kaliszewski, 38, an assistant professor of zoology at Brigham Young University, died Wednesday night in an accident in

Provo Canyon.

• Tara Means, 17, Price, and Corrine Johnson, 39, Farmington, N.M., died in a head-on collision Thursday morning in Spanish Fork Canyon.

Kaliszewski, who lived at Canyon Meadows in Provo Canyon, was driving up the canyon in a 1986 Toyota Tercel at approximately 6:25 p.m. when his vehicle collided with a pickup truck being driven by Kent Young, 61, Heber City, who was driving down the canyon.

The collision occurred near a road-construction site near Upper Falls. Kaliszewski, who was not wearing a seat belt, died at the scene, said Highway Patrol Trooper Bruce Clayton.

Young and a passenger in his vehicle, Mary Anderson, 55, Heber City, were transported to Utah Valley Regional Medical Center.

Anderson was treated and released, according to hospital spokesman Anton Garrity. Young is in serious condition.

Kaliszewski, a native of Poland, joined the BYU faculty about 3½ years ago, according to Duane Smith, chairman of the zoology department.

"He was one of the world's experts on phylogenetic systematics and molecular biology," Smith said. "He was one of the most brilliant men I've ever had the opportunity to meet and had as great a potential as any faculty member ever had. He was just absolutely brilliant."

Smith said Kaliszewski, who was

not LDS, had been highly recruited by other universities but chose to come to BYU because of its high moral standards and family values, which were in keeping with his own.

Means was eastbound in Spanish Fork Canyon around 1:15 a.m. when she apparently fell asleep and drifted over into the westbound traffic lanes, striking a vehicle driven by Preston Kinne of Farmington, N.M. Kinne saw the vehicle coming and pulled onto the westbound emergency lane in an attempt to avoid a collision, according to a report filed by Highway Patrol trooper Dan Whitney.

But the vehicles still hit head-on. Tara Means died at the scene. A passenger in her car, Sara Means, 14, Price, was flown to University Medical Center in Salt Lake in critical condition.

Preston Kinne was taken to Utah Valley Regional Medical Center, where he is in serious condition with multiple injuries. Johnson was a passenger in his car.

Marek J. Kaliszewski

Marek J. Kaliszewski, age 38, died October 14, 1992 in Provo due to an auto accident.

He was born August 6, 1954 in Poznan, Poland, a son of Jozef and Zofia Zaleska Kaliszewski. He married Maria M. Szczesna June 9, 1979 in Poznan, Poland.

He received his education in Poland, including his master's degree and PhD. He received his post-doctoral studies in Connecticut and Berkeley, California. He has been a professor of zoology at BYU for the past three years.

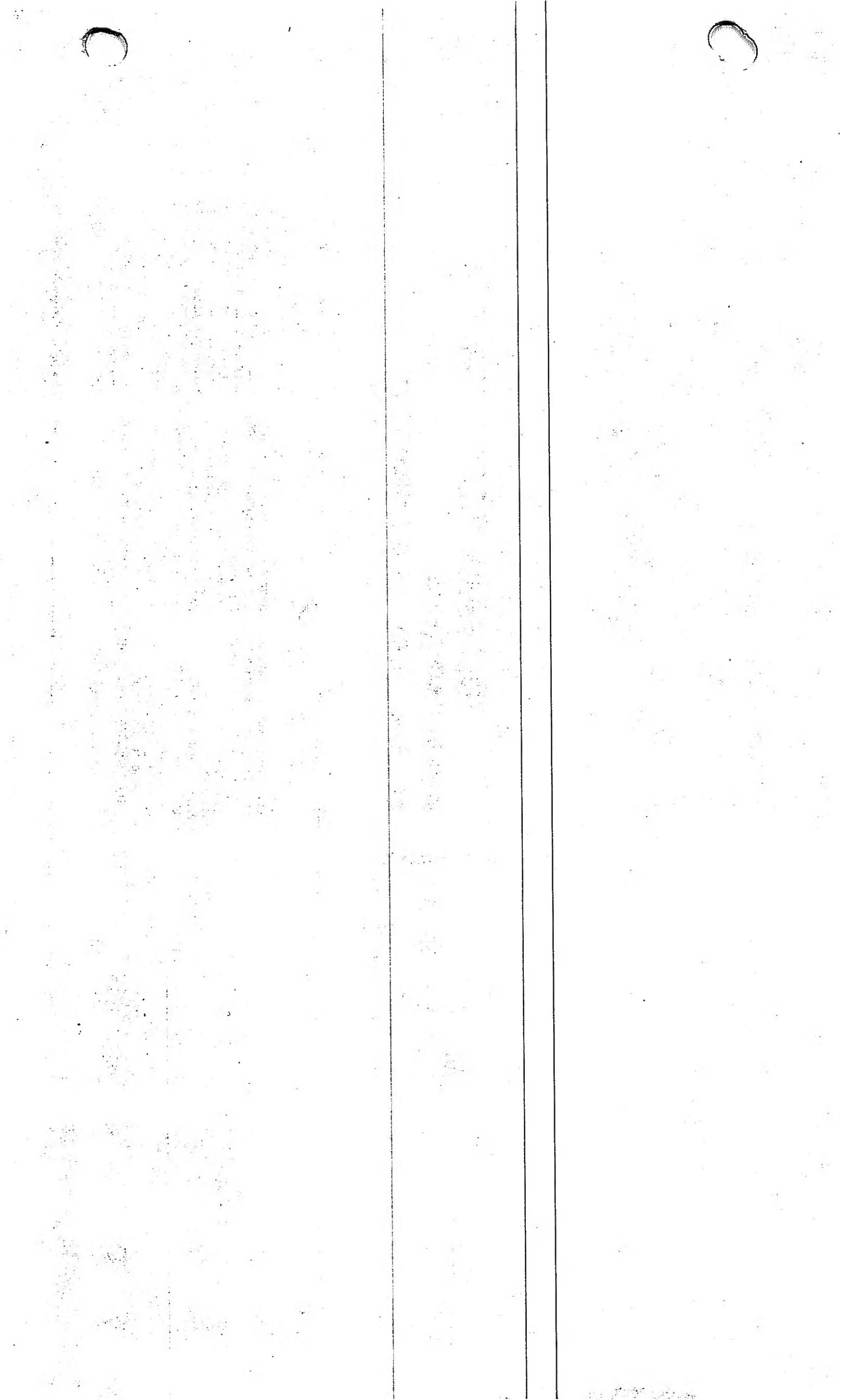
He was a member of the St. Francis Catholic Church, Provo.

He is survived by his wife of Provo; two daughters: Ada and Marynka; his parents of Poland; two brothers and one sister, living in Poland.

Funeral mass will be held Saturday, October 17, 1992 at 10 a.m. at the St. Francis Catholic Church, 172 N. 500 West, Provo, Utah. Vigil service will be held Friday at 7 p.m. in the Berg Mortuary, 185 E. Center Street, Provo. Friends may call from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Due to the sudden nature of Marek's death, Maria would appreciate it if friends would not express verbal condolences.







Daily Herald Photo/Matthew R. Smith

Allyn Judd, left, and Gordon Strate watch as a truck is pulled from the Provo River after it crashed Thursday afternoon.

Truck plunges in icy river, driver narrowly escapes

By CHRISTOPHER SCHARMAN
The Daily Herald

A Provo man barely escaped with his life Thursday after his flatbed cargo truck plunged into the icy waters of the Provo River near the Chalet Cafe in Provo Canyon.

At approximately 1 p.m., George Kaaihue, 27, who was driving for the Orem firm Mount-

ainland Supply Co., lost control of his vehicle on highway 189 while approaching a bend in the road. The truck rolled down the embankment into the river. The road was snow packed and slick which reportedly caused the driver to lose control.

"He's lucky he was able to get his seatbelt off and wasn't knocked unconscious because his

cab was totally submerged," said Ahquin Clay, a fellow driver.

Kaaihue, who was alone in the truck, was able to get out of the vehicle and was walking down the highway to the Chalet Cafe when Highway Patrol Trooper Tracy Simmons picked him up.

"He was soaking wet and cold," Simmons said.

The driver sustained only mi-

nor injuries and returned home to get warm as crews worked to salvage his cargo and remove the truck from the river. He was carrying 8 inch ductile pipe used to run water lines in housing subdivisions.

All the cargo was saved, Clay said.

"It was an unfortunate accident and we got lucky," said co-worker Lance Pope.

AFFAIR

**Ex-Provo coach to get
in court over loss
of certificate**

Utah County

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Crash blocks Provo Canyon traffic

A woman comforts a boy while Provo firefighters work to get the boy's injured mother and grandmother out of a damaged pickup truck Thursday afternoon. The head-on collision caused only minor injuries, but traffic on U.S. 189 was blocked for an hour, causing cars to back up for a mile each way on the canyon road. An eastbound Dodge truck driven by Marlene Murray, 64, crashed into a Ford truck going west, said Utah High-

way Patrol Trooper Steve Helm. The Ford was towing a boat that smashed into the the truck. Murray and her daughter, Laura Green, 40, both Hacienda Heights, Calif., were taken to Utah Valley Regional Medical Center, where Murray was treated and released and Green was in satisfactory condition Friday. Occupants of the other truck, Lapriel Louder, 74, and Lloyd Louder, 76, of Orem, were treated and released.

BUSY LAWMEN

7 hurt when car, pickup collide in Provo Canyon

U-189 traffic backed up 5 to 7 miles. 9 calls logged for search and rescue.

PROVO CANYON — Seven people were injured when a car and pickup truck collided head-on about 1½ miles below Deer Creek Dam on U-189 in Provo Canyon Monday afternoon, a Utah Highway Patrol spokesman said.

Utah County law enforcement agencies were also kept busy with nine search-and-rescue calls, and Provo police are continuing investigation into a string of store burglaries.

The names, ages and addresses of the injured were not released, pending notification of kin, although five people were believed

to be under 18.

The accident occurred about 2 p.m. when a southbound truck containing two people swerved across the road and collided head on with the northbound car that was transporting five people, said trooper Jim Madson.

"The driver of the truck apparently fell asleep," Madson said. "He told us he'd only had about an hour's worth of sleep last night."

Four victims were taken by ambulance to Utah Valley Regional Medical Center; two were taken to Wasatch County Hospital and one of the juveniles was airlifted to Primary Children's Medical Center in serious condition. The condition of the others could not be obtained Tuesday.

"We are very lucky no one was killed," said Madson.

Utah County

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Labor Day weekend traffic, including scores of recreational vehicles, was backed five to seven miles in both directions.

Utah County's Search and Rescue team was busy over the Labor Day weekend with more than nine calls on Monday alone.

Utah County dispatchers confirmed that all of the incidents involved hikers or overdue boaters. There were no fatalities reported.

Ron Fernstedt, county public communications spokesman, said a teenage boy who'd been hiking in the Lone Peak area Monday was airlifted from the area Tuesday morning with a broken leg.

Earlier Monday, a 20-year-old man fell at Stewart Falls and fractured his back. He was also lifted out by helicopter.

Details were unavailable as Utah County Search and Rescue workers were involved in a search for two missing female hikers being sought Tuesday morning in co-operation with Salt Lake County's Search and Rescue.

A number of businesses were burglarized early Friday in the Continental Plaza, said Provo Police Capt. George Pierpont.

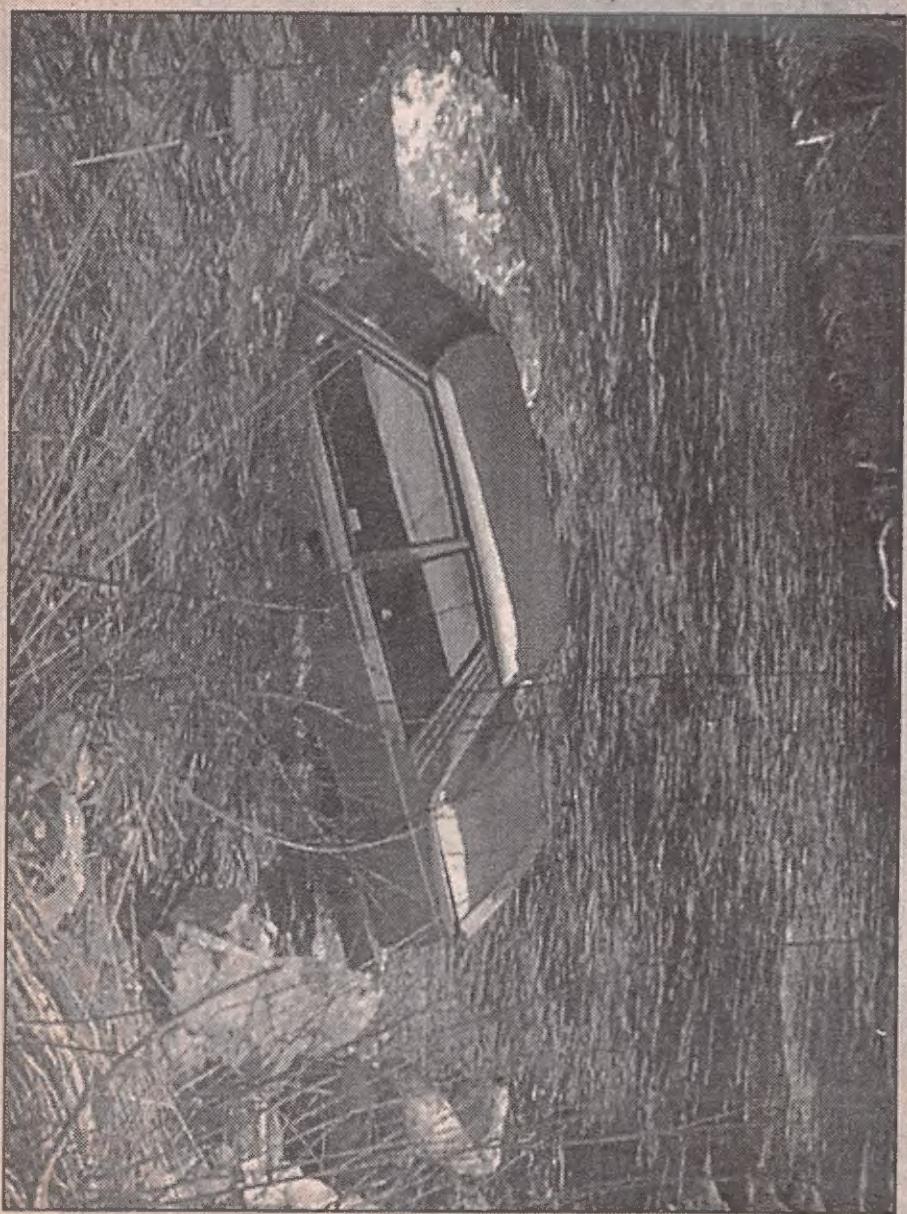
Damage was limited to a few hundred dollars per store, but eight different businesses were hit, said Pierpont, with windows broken, some cash taken along with other items.

Pierpont said Tuesday it appears to be the work of a number of juveniles, but no suspects have been named.

The Wasatch Wave

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Safe Road?

This car plunged into the Provo River Saturday afternoon just below the Wildwood area along Highway 189 in Provo Canyon. No injuries were reported, although fishing was disrupted. Construction on that section of the canyon road continues, despite a lawsuit filed by environmentalists.

Provo, Utah, Thursday, June 27, 1996

Man dies in canyon rollover

A 25-year-old Mexican national who had been residing in Orem was killed Wednesday night when he lost control of his car and it rolled into the Provo River.

Pablo M. Perez was driving westbound on the Provo Canyon Highway at about 9 p.m. when his 1982 red four-door Cadillac crossed the traffic lanes for an unknown reason, said trooper Margaret Hardie, spokeswoman for the

Utah Highway Patrol. Perez was found in the Cadillac, which was found upside down in the water about 25 feet from where it entered the river.

The Utah County Sheriff's Search and Rescue team pulled Perez from the river.

The rollover occurred just below the Sundance resort near the State Road 92 junction, Hardie said.

UHP investigators think there may have been a male passenger in the car with Perez but declined to say why they think that or how the man would have exited the vehicle.

The accident was the beginning of an active night in the canyon for public safety officials as the administration building at the Sundance Resort burned to the ground about 7 hours later.

Anglers land big one — a drowning motorist

Deseret News photo

THE FISHING WAS lousy that morning in Provo Canyon, and to make matters worse, the three fishermen were cold and wet as they walked through the falling snow and the damp willow along the muddy stream.

Orrin Olsen, Hans Olsen and Clarence Robison must have been nuts to venture out in such conditions last Tuesday just to catch fish, but fishing will do that to a man. Up before 6, they reached the stream by 6:30 a.m. and tossed their flies into the water, which had turned a muddy brown from the storm.

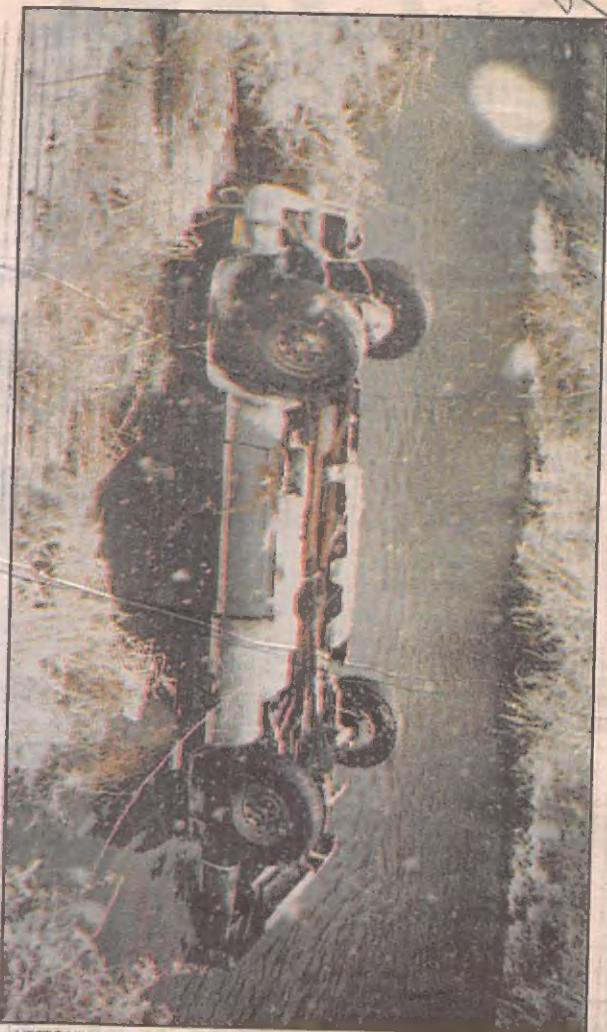
With snow covering their shoulders and hats, the only things they were catching were colds. They barely got a bite, but they were there for other reasons, even if they didn't know it at the time.

You never know what you're going to pull out of the water when you cast your line, but no one ever expected to catch Tom Swan. It was Providence or luck or karma or whatever force you want to credit with being behind two big football players being in the right place at the right time with their fishing poles on a cold, snowy day in November. Anyway, this would be one fishing story in which the big one didn't get away.

After fishing for a time, the Olsens decided to try their luck in a big hole upstream near the road, while Robison stayed behind. They walked for a few minutes, winding through the willow, and when they had come to within 50 feet of their destination, they stopped to check another spot. That's when Tom Swan dropped in.

A pickup truck slid off the road above them, rolled a couple of times and landed upside down in the very hole in which they intended to fish. A minute later, they might have been crushed by the truck.

The cab was submerged in the stream. Hans Olsen ran up to the road to see



PHOTOGRAPH BY ORRIN OLSEN

Fishermen Hans and Orrin Olsen, above, flank Tom Swan, whom they pulled out of the water after Swan's pickup, at left, slid off the road and fell into the Provo River. "This will beat my dad's best fishing story," Hans Olsen said.

"I can't get this guy out of here!" Orrin Olsen shouted.

Hans Olsen rushed into the water to help his uncle. What they couldn't see in the dark water was Tom Swan, a whopper-size, 6-foot-3, 290-pound construction worker who had been driving to a job in Heber City. He had been traveling about 35 miles per hour when his truck hit a slippery spot and spun out of control.

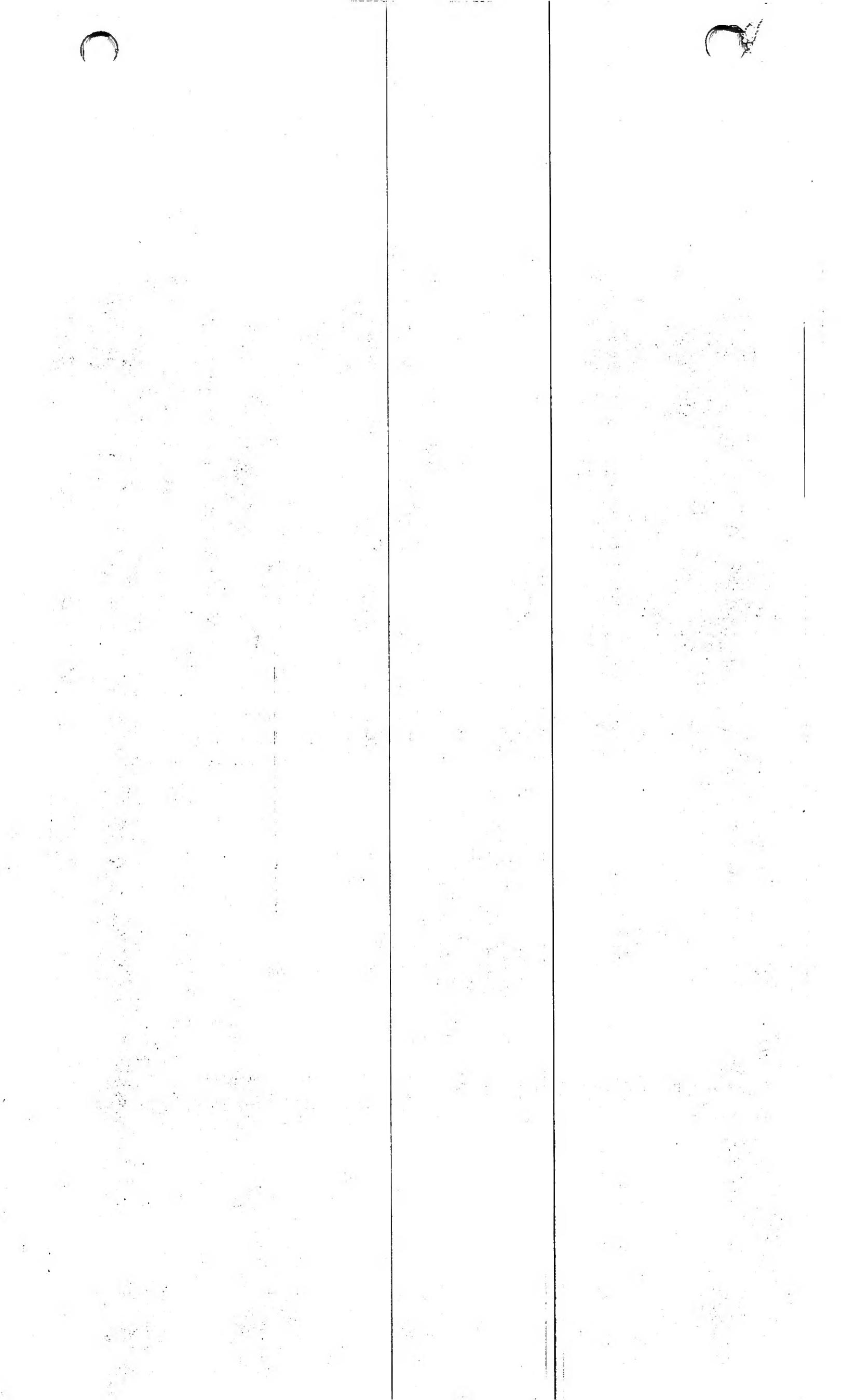
The cab instantly filled with water. Fortunately, Swan maintained consciousness. Frantic for air, terrified that he would drown, he struggled for some 30 seconds before he could free himself from his seat belt. He found a pocket of air near the floorboard and managed to get a gulp of air before slipping under the water to find an escape, now worried about both drowning and freezing.

Then he felt something tug at his leg. He thought it was the current and fought it. It never occurred to Swan that someone was trying to help him. What were the odds of that? He'd been in the water for only half a minute. What he couldn't know was that not only were a couple of men already working for his rescue, but both of them were big and strong enough to do it. Orrin Olsen is a former BYU All-American and NFL player, and Hans Olsen is a freshman on the BYU football team and a former Idaho state wrestling champ.

Together, they pulled and pulled, but whoever was in there was stuck. They continued to pull. Hans Olsen used one of his wrestling moves, an arm drag — "The one I won state with" — to grab and pull. "I put



PHOTOGRAPH BY ORRIN OLSEN



CHEMICAL SPILL

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By Dennis Romboy 7-1-92
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